

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 USSS-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-15 DRC-01 OPR-02 NIC-01 AF-10 OC-06 OMB-01

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P 091445Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3937

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3018

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: SITREP 12, 1400 LT, OCTOBER 9

1. ACTIVITY IN DOWNTOWN CAIRO HAS INCREASED ALMOST TO POINT OF NORMALITY. STREETS ARE FILLED WITH BUSES, TRAMS, TAXIS, PRIVATE CARS AND PEDESTRIANS. MILITARY VEHICLE ACTIVITY IS LOWER THAN YESTERDAY.

2. INTERNAL SECURITY. NO CHANGE FROM YESTERDAY MORNING.

3. MILITARY ACTIVITY; CIVIL DEFENSE STATUS; ALERTS.
AT APPROXIMATELY 0730 LOCAL TIME THIS MORNING AIR RAID SIRENS SOUNDED THROUGH CAIRO. THERE HAS BEEN NO AIR ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, AND IT APPEARS THAT THESE WERE TESTS. WE HAVE HAD UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF SHOTS BEING HEARD THIS MORNING IN MAADI AREA. THESE AND AIR RAID SIRENS WERE ONLY BREAK
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IN PATTERN OF WHAT IS ALMOST A NORMAL DAY.

4. REGULATIONS. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS CAUTIONED CITIZENS FROM PICKING UP SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE "ENEMY BOOBY TRAPS." OTHERWISE STATUS REMAINS AS BEFORE. PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED; SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE ONLY PARTIALLY OPEN. CAIRO AMERICAN COLLEGE REMAINS OPEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL.

5. MEDIA PLAY. WAR NEWS BLANKETS PRESS. MILITARY COMMUNIQUEs ARE BEING ISSUED AT A MUCH FASTER RATE THAN BEFORE. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SCARCITY OF FRESH NEWS CREATED SOME APPREHENSION YESTERDAY, AND BELIEVE THIS, PLUS APPARENTLY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS ON MILITARY FRONT, EXPLAIN CHANGE IN INFORMATION POLICY.

6. FOCUS ON US. BECAUSE OF US POSITION IN UN CALLING FOR CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL TO PRE-OCTOBER 6 LINES, US HAS MOVED FURTHER INTO THE NEWS. AHRAM CARRIES CENTER-PAGE ARTICLE TITLED "FAILURE OF AMERICAN ATTEMPT IN SECURITY COUNCIL TO RETURN BELLIGERENTS TO OCTOBER 6 BORDERS." GUMHURIYYA HAS EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICIZING US FOR DIPLOMATIC STAND. AHRAM ALSO CARRIES FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE DRAWING FROM NEWS AGENCY SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS ASKED BREZHNEV TO SUPPORT US IN CEASEFIRE EFFORTS. AMOCO REP WAS TOLD TODAY BY ASHRAF GHORBAL THAT GOE INFORMATION POLICY IS TO MAINTAIN RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF EXCITEMENT IN PRESS, AND TO AVOID CRITICIZING US "AS LONG AS IT CAN."

7. WELFARE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. SITUATION REMAINS AS REPORTED IN PAST TWO DAYS.

8. PUBLIC ATTITUDE. NEWS COVERAGE OF CONTINUING MILITARY SUCCESSES, ALONG WITH CONTINUED LACK OF TENSION IN CAIRO HAVE INDUCED GREATER OPTIMISM AMONG EGYPTIANS. THIS IS TEMPERED SOMEWHAT BY APPREHENSION OF THOSE WHOSE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS HAVE BEEN CALLED INTO MILITARY SERVICE.

9. UNLESS SOVIET INVOLVEMENT BECOMES FACTOR IN SITUATION, WE SHALL HENCEFORTH DELETE MOSCOW FROM SITREP ADDRESSEES.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO03018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SMITH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731044/aaaabggn.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP 12, 1400 LT, OCTOBER 9
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005